

STATINTL

Probers Reveal Dodd's Request for CIA Support

The Senate Ethics Committee disclosed last night that Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) had sought support of the Central Intelligence Agency in his efforts to clear himself of misconduct charges.

The Committee released the text of a letter it got from CIA Director Richard Helms partly supporting Dodd's version of a controversial trip he made to West Germany in 1964.

Committee Chairman John Stennis (D-Miss.) said in a statement accompanying the letter that it had been handed to him by a CIA man "who stated that it was in response to inquiries from Sen. Dodd."

Earlier in the day, after word of the letter had leaked out, Dodd denied to reporters that he had asked the CIA for the letter. He said he first learned of it from newspaper accounts.

In other developments yesterday:

• Government investigators, it was learned, are studying "more than one" alleged conflict of interest against Dodd.

• A last-minute hassle over a deposition Dodd was to have given today in connection with his libel suit against columnists Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson is expected to send lawyers for both sides into Federal District Court.

In the cautiously worded CIA letter, Helms, who recently took over as director, said Dodd had been in contact with the CIA both before and after the 1964 trip.

Dodd has been accused of going to West Germany primarily to help out old friend Julius Klein, a Chicago public relations man fearful of losing his West German clients.

The Senator has told the Ethics Committee that he made the trip as chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee to investigate Soviet terror tactics.

In the letter dated July 14, Helms said Dodd "has asked this agency to confirm the fact of his contacts with this agency in obtaining information on Soviet murders, assassinations and kidnappings."

The CIA director said he was "pleased to provide this information for such use and consideration as the Select (Ethics) Committee may deem appropriate."

"Sen. Dodd and his assistant, David Martin, were in contact with representatives of this agency intermittently both before and after the Senator's trip to Germany in April of 1964 in an effort to obtain as much information on the subject as could be made public at that time," Helms wrote. He added:

"Particular attention was given to the case of Bogdan Stashynsky since a great deal of information about the case was a matter of record and could be made public."

While Helms' letter showed that Dodd was interested in Stashynsky (a confessed assassin), it avoided the issue of whether that was the reason for the trip.

Dodd's former administrative assistant James P. Boyd, told the Ethics Committee that the Senator's inquiry about Soviet terror tactics was only a cover-up for the real reason for the trip—which Boyd said was to help Klein.

While Dodd had professed not to know of the CIA letter, Stennis said that the Connecticut Senator's attorney, John F. Sonnett, had offered it in evidence July 19 after the Committee had finished questioning Klein.

John Averill of the Los Angeles Times reported that Stennis was privately furious over the circumstances that forced release of the letter. Word of the letter was said to

have been leaked by one of Dodd's lawyers.

Meanwhile, both the Justice Department and the Ethics Committee were understood to be studying conflict of interest allegations against Dodd.

Neither would comment, but it was learned that the Senator's intervention with Federal officials on behalf of a Connecticut builder—disclosed last week by columnists Pearson and Anderson—was not the only potential conflict under study.

Pearson and Anderson have also accused the Senator of turning to his personal use several hundred thousand dollars in campaign contributions.

The Senator sued for libel, but subsequently dropped the part of his complaint against the columnist dealing with campaign finances.

Dodd was to have given a deposition in the libel suit today at 10 a.m. in the offices of Anderson's attorney, Warren Woods.

But Woods said he was told late yesterday afternoon that the Senator was unwilling to leave Capitol Hill for the questioning.

Woods said he had already completed arrangements and did not want to drag all his files to Dodd's Senate offices.

The Senator's attorneys could not be reached for comment.

In the late afternoon, however, Woods said he was told that the Senator wanted to stay close to the Senate for roll-call votes that might be coming up.